

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising administering to a patient in need of such reduction 17-OH progesterone in an amount ~~and under~~ conditions such so that said reduction is effected.

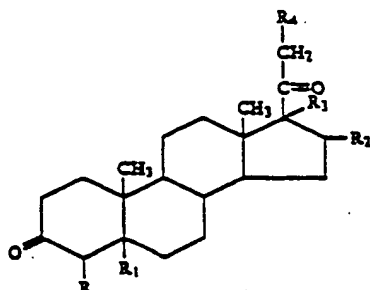
19. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising administering to a patient in need of such reduction 16-methylprogesterone in an amount ~~and under~~ conditions such so that said reduction is effected.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising administering to a patient in need of such reduction a progestational agent of formula:

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wherein R and R<sub>1</sub> individually are hydrogen or taken together form a double bond; R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or methyl; R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen or hydroxyl; and R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen or hydroxyl, and

wherein said agent is administered in an amount ~~and~~  
~~under conditions such~~ so that said reduction is effected.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising administering to a patient in need of such reduction cortexolone in an amount ~~and under conditions~~  
~~such~~ so that said reduction is effected.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising administering to a patient in need of such reduction 5- $\alpha$ -pregnan-3,20-dione in an amount ~~and under~~  
~~conditions such~~ so that said reduction is effected.